Interreg Europe

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Sharing solutions for better regional policies

ACTION PLAN

INNO INFRA SHARE

BRAINPORT DEVELOPMENT

Brainport Development

May 2019

Table of Contents

1. General information

Project: INNO INFRA SHARE

Partner organisation: BRAINPORT DEVELOPMENT

Country: The Netherlands

NUTS2 region: Province of Noord-Brabant

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1.1 Background of the Brainport Region

Geography

The Brainport region (Southeast Brabant), with Eindhoven at its heart, is situated in the South of the Netherlands. It is part of the province of Noord-Brabant. Brainport Eindhoven has a population of 760,000 and a workforce of 400,000 people. The area is an important link between the ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam and the knowledge institutes and production sites in the adjacent regions of Flanders (Belgium) and North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany).

Economy

Brainport Eindhoven is a world-class top technology region. The economic growth percentage of the region topped at 4,9%. Within the Netherlands the region is recognised a strong region in terms of R&D and innovation with a strong technological profile. It has the highest private R&D expenditures in the Netherlands, and the unemployment rate is significantly lower than the national average. High tech and design are combined with an advanced high-end manufacturing industry, strong creative and design competences and entrepreneurship. The top sectors High Tech Systems and Materials (25% of total production), Lifesciences & Health (51%) and Agro & Food (19%) are relatively large in Brainport as compared to the rest of the Netherlands.

Governance

Close collaboration and sharing knowledge are part of the region's DNA and characterize the open innovation culture. The economic success of Brainport can be largely attributed to the culture of trust and understanding that the future lies in co-creation, expressed in the Triple Helix cooperation between industry, knowledge institutions and public authorities. The region has developed a long term strategy in order to create diverse economic strategies with direct participation of government at multiple levels, innovative SMEs, large industrial firms and universities.

RIIs

One of the qualities of the Brainport ecosystem is the presence of several innovation campuses, such as the High Tech Campus, the Brainport Industries Campus, the Automotive Campus, Strijp S and the campus of Eindhoven University of Technology. These campuses function as a breeding ground and magnet for innovation, new activity and talent. The Brainport RII consists of more than 70 facilities in various high tech areas. Varying along the Technology Readiness Levels (TRL's), in a variety of technology domains, such as integrated photonics, virtual twinning, robotics, data science and smart manufacturing.

These RIIs come up with solutions for some of the big issues that societies face today in the areas of health, mobility, energy, food and safety.

1.2 Inno Infra Share project

The goal of the Interreg Europe 2014-2020 project Sharing Strategies for European Research and Innovation Infrastructures (INNO INFRA SHARE) is to improve the accessibility and the exploitation of local Research and Innovation infrastructure (RII) assets by SMEs. The project partnership covers 8 European regions from Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Latvia, Estonia, Czech Republic and Sweden[1], all of them with common RIS3 smart specialization priorities. Project partners have undertaken a joint learning process, involving regional and national stakeholders, that have contributed to the design of 8 regional Action Plans, to be implemented in their respective territories to improve policy instruments that will positively affect RIIs and improve their accessibility by SMEs. The project is implemented from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2020.

The project implementation is divided in two phases:

i) Phase 1: the exchange of knowledge and experience between the regions and development of regional action plans
ii) Phase 2: the monitoring and implementation of action plans.

The regional Action Plans for each partner territory are based on the learning experiences in phase 1. The implementation and monitoring will happen in the second phase of the project in 2019 until the end of 2020. The current document is the Action Plan for the Brainport region.

2. Policy context

2.1 Policy instrument

The Action Plan aims to impact:	X	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
	•	European Territorial Cooperation programme
	•	Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed: Operational Program South-Netherlands (OP Zuid)

The selected policy instrument is the ERDF program: Operational Program South Netherlands (OP Zuid). This program aims to reinforce, implement and support technological and applied research infrastructure / strengthen public and private R&D infrastructure

More specifically, investment priority 1b is targeted:

- Specific goal 1b1: structural reinforcement and widening of open innovation ecosystems and cross-overs between sectors of international and national importance. With higher participation of SME's.
- 1b2: strengthening valorisation among innovative SMEs within the international and national top clusters
- 1b3: Sustainable reinforcement of the human capital system (matching demand and supply) within the top clusters

[1] Project partners are Aster Stock Joint Consortium (Italy), Brainport development (Netherland), Vidzeme planning region (Latvia), Tartu City Government (Estonia), Research center Flanders Make (Belgium), Skåne region (Sweden), Brno Technical University (Czech Republic) and Chemnitz Technical University (Germany).

The selected policy instrument targets three NUTS2 regions (Provinces of Zeeland, Noord-Brabant and Limburg). The Brainport region is part of the province of Noord-Brabant.

2.2 SWOT analysis

This SWOT analysis is drawn up at the intersection of the policy instrument and the functioning of RIIs in the region.

Strengths

- The program is an important instrument in the Brainport innovation ecosystem, demand driven and stimulating SME and RII collaboration
- A strong focus on sharing knowledge between innovative SMEs and knowledge institutions, and therewith combining strengths and stimulating valorisation and innovation
- High participation degree of SMEs in the program
- Existence of many, strong, unique RIIs in the region
- Technology development at an increasing rate, being one of the most competitive tech regions in Europe.

Weaknesses

- New emerging technologies at a low Technology Readiness Level (TRL) are hard to be supported through the selected policy instrument.
- Not easy to use the program to invest in "hardware" infrastructure and costly equipment
- Relatively low amount of subsidies to ERDF
- Few co-ordination between Interreg and ERDF
- No co-ordination between ERDF OP Zuid and the ERDF programmes in neighbouring regions Flanders and Nordrhein Westfalen
- Project applications and the monitoring process mean a relatively heavy administrative burden for SMEs
- Hardly any international projects are being funded, despite Art. 70. Up to 15% of the total amount of subsidy (EU + Province) can be allocated to partners outside the region. This share of the budget is spent in collaboration with other Dutch regions. However, not at all for collaborations with e.g. neighbouring regions Flanders and NRWF.
- Current method of publishing calls not entirely efficient/productive, as this causes a fragmentation among different projects
- Exploiting an RII and find new ways of sharing is difficult due to all the responsibilities that RII owners have on a day to day basis, such as pressure on finding funding, on publications and education.

Opportunities

- Inter-regional innovation: build international innovation networks and incorporate international partners from outside the program region. Those projects with the aim to share knowledge and innovate across borders will make the difference on the long term. We therefore advocate for more projects with an international component within the program.
- Better connection and exchange of experiences between ERDF OP South Netherlands and ERDF OP Flanders
- OP Zuid is only one way of incentivizing accessibility and exploitation of RII by SMEs. A closer look at the EU level of research and innovation incentives shows us that the selected policy instrument makes up for only a small percentage of RII funding. The better the policy instrument is embedded into the wider span of funding opportunities, the more effective it is.

- More focus on new (digital) technologies which offer new opportunities for SMEs and are important for the digital transition, such as additive manufacturing.
- With respect to more SME participation in RIIs, we see especially opportunities regarding the connection of SMEs with living labs in the region. Besides, we advocate for creating better connection between existing RIIs

Threats

- Future funding of the ERDF program is unsure
- A threat regarding RII accessibility is the fact that SMEs have limited funding for using equipment of RIIs. Technological advancement also makes the demand for equipment specific and diverse. Research making use of existing RIIs could be funded by other schemes such as Horizon2020 (Horizon Europe), but the scoring percentages are low, which gives a contra-incentive for SMEs to participate in RII assets. Here, the so called "EU stairway to excellence" is not complete
- Large diversity of SME services and instruments, which are not well aligned. Not easy for SMEs to find their way in the investment landscape. Therewith inefficient funding, e.g. overlapping services such as data management solutions.
- Lack of long term financial planning of the RIIs, due to the fact that they work largely project based, short term, need to constantly apply for new funding

2.3 Regional policy

In 2018 the Brainport National Action Agenda (BNAG) was published, determining some of the priority actions on the short term. The province of Noord-Brabant, stakeholders in the Brainport region and the national government (Ministry of Economic Affairs) have embraced these actions as a joint effort in order to maintain and strengthen the economic power of the region, as such acknowledging the importance of the knowledge intensive high tech manufacturing industry of Brainport Eindhoven for the international competitiveness of the Netherlands.

Furthermore, in 2018 Brainport Development started the process of a future scenario exploration for the region. This exploration should be the basis for a longer term innovation agenda.

As a logical result, actions as defined in the Inno Infra Share Action Plan are maximally aligned with the actions both in the BNAG as well as the outcomes of the future scenario exploration and the longer term innovation agenda.

3. Learning effects and implementation in the regional Action Plan

3.1 Lessons learned from local context analysis and interregional project findings

During the first phase of the project, many local and interregional learning activities took place. First of all, the project gave us the opportunity to systematically analyse the Brainport local context with respect to RIIs. Learning effects derived from *local* context analysis are based on:

- SWOT analysis of the policy instrument OP Zuid (ERDF);
- initial mapping of the RII landscape and identification of local good practices
- local stakeholder meetings
- local learning workshops involving triple-helix stakeholders

Second, phase 1 of the project gave us the chance to inter-regionally exchange experiences in a broad constellation of partners, regions, policy instruments. Learning effects derived from *interregional* learning activities are based on:

- Other region's local context analysis, Good Practices and RII mapping
- Study visits
- Peer review meetings

Individual meetings with Flanders Make. Some of the lessons learned from the above mentioned activities:

Lesson learned: Gained new insights in the RII's of the region and connection with SME's

- What insights did we gain?
- The RIIs vary per region, including the way SMEs make use of RIIs. Cultural elements in innovation cooperation influence the mechanisms of open innovation infrastructures. Also, policy and policy frameworks can greatly influence the openness of RIIs.
- Based on an initial mapping we can conclude that we have very unique RIIs in the region. On the other hand, many of those with a relatively low occupancy rate and only partly open for industry and SME partners.
- Even though some RIIs have a strong connection with industry, still this participation should be higher and valorisation should increase. Even universities for applied sciences find difficulties in establishing strategic collaboration with SMEs and sharing of lab facilities for joint applied research and testing.
- In general, RII management is fragmented and project-based. A long-term strategy, ideas for new business models and roadmaps for RIIs lack in most cases.
- Stakeholders indicated that with eye on the future new collaboration platforms will be necessary and functions will be much more integrated (e.g. early stage software applications with hardware production and design), which urges for more integration and collaboration, more joint research between industry and knowledge institutions and as such more co-research and RII sharing;
- Stakeholders indicated the need to complete the mapping and better expose and communicate about the RII competences, with the aim to be better able to connect with RIIs inside and outside of the region, to better market the existing facilities as an element for attracting top talent and researchers and define a more long term strategy for RII management
- Relevance of RIIs for SMEs varies according to Technology Readiness Levels: some RIIs are not aimed at SMEs at all. For example the lab setting with a very low TRL will not necessarily have SME participation as a goal, but is geared towards fundamental research. RIIs at the higher TRLs, e.g. field labs are more suitable for SME participation.
- A strength of the RII ecosystem is the existence of many innovative Living Labs and these especially offer opportunities for SMEs to get acquainted with new technologies. However, there is a need to broaden the network around these living labs, increase access by SMEs, share learning experiences as well as interconnect the existing labs

- Which part of the learning process has been of inspiration?
  - Process of describing the Regional Innovation System and RIS3
  - Process of RII mapping
  - Peer review meeting in Eindhoven: As part of the discussion Aster presented their experiences with RII mapping in the Emilia Romagna region. Emilia Romagna conducted a full mapping of the RIIs in the region and developed a very practical useful database, being of inspiration for the ecosystem regarding Additive Manufacturing in Brainport which we foresee to develop.

- Relation to the policy instrument
  - Through a better alignment of OP Zuid with the OP's in neigbouring regions and more focus on including partners from these regions in the consortia, a better connection between the RII's in the different regions would be stimulated. This might contribute to more efficiency in RII management.
  - less administrative burden regarding OP Zuid projects might make it more attractive for SME's to participate in projects and connect to RIIs.

- Relation to Actions:

- Through "*Action 1: Developing the additive manufacturing ecosystem and enhance SME participation*" we intent to give follow up on the above described lessons learned by gaining better insights in the regional RIIs, identify gaps and opportunities and better organise the ecosystem..
- Through Action 3 we intent to increase SME participations in RII by lobbying for less administrative burden for participation in projects.

Lesson learned: Inter-regional collaboration in research and innovation (R&I) is key

What insights did we gain?

- The project made us aware of the fact that there are many chances of connecting our RIIs inter-regionally and organize value chains. However, practically thinking this through and analysing the possibilities the policy instrument gives us, we realize the support from OP Zuid to inter-regional projects is very limited. Even though the existence of Article 70, in reality the ERDF funds are hardly being used for interregional collaboration.
- Stakeholders indicate there are many missed opportunities in the bordering regions of Flanders as well as Nord Rhein Westfalen. Exchange with the Flemish project partner Flanders Make, helped us to identify missed opportunities in the inter-regional collaboration with Flanders. The need for innovation and infrastructure exchange is logical and even obvious. However, at the same time we learned from our stakeholders that collaboration is apparently *so* obvious that it is largely taken for granted as if this would take place automatically. Whereas in reality very few actions are planned to strategically and practically explore and improve innovation-collaboration. The collaboration between Flanders and (South) Netherlands is hardly prioritized in the local stakeholders' innovation strategies.
- Besides, during the study visits Brainport has learned from the RIS3 approach in Flanders which entails a combination of market oriented Clusters, RTOs and Innovative Company Networks. After discussing with stakeholders, it became clear that especially these clusters and networks could represent ideal starting points for Dutch SMEs and field labs to get connected to innovation infrastructure and accessto markets in Flanders.

Which part of the learning process has been of inspiration?

- Study visit to Flanders
- Inter regional learning workshop by IDEA Consult, Vincent Duchenne in Bologna
- Individual discussions with project partner Flanders Make
- Stakeholder Group meetings

Relation to policy instrument:

- Within OP Zuid it would be an opportunity to stimulate international partnerships, including participation from partners in Flanders
- There should be a better connection of OP Zuid with the OP in Flanders region

Relation to actions:

- Through "*Action 2: Promoting inter-regional collaboration between Flanders and Brainport*" we intent to respond to this lesson learned by identifying opportunities regarding RII collaboration with Flanders. Through "*Action 3: Making optimal use of OP Zuid with respect to RIIs and SME participation*" we will try to stimulate the inter-regional component in the OP Zuid Programme.
- Materials Business Centre (MBC): Skane struggles with the same challenge as Brainport region: bringing the results from fundamental research to the market and increase valorisation. MBC, being a platform providing cross connections between entrepreneurs, industry and researchers can be a model worthwhile applying in our own region too;

3.2 Actions envisaged

The above mentioned lessons learned, both from the local context analysis as well as the interregional learning activities, lead to the following considerations for this Action Plan:

Priority actions concluded from the above explained lessons learned:

1) Strengthen the additive manufacturing ecosystem and enhance SME participation
2) Establish an inter-regional collaboration programme between Flanders and Brainport
3) Making optimal use of the selected policy instrument OP Zuid

4. Details of the actions envisaged

Action 1: strengthen the additive manufacturing ecosystem and enhance SME participation

Background

During a peer review meeting Aster shared with us their experiences with an extensive survey of the regional RII in Emilia Romagna, carried out in May 2017, which allowed to collect important data of the RII. ASTER has created an online informative system showing the location of RIIs and a detailed information factsheet about their features and activities. This inspired Brainport to create a similar information system, interlinking the available information with respect to additive manufacturing, to start with.

The focus on Additive Manufacturing was chosen as a starting point because of different criteria. First, support from stakeholders in the region. Second, the analysis that regional parties do not sufficiently work together, and potential end-users do not have sufficient insights in the available facilities. Third, the potential for inter-regionally connecting the additive manufacturing ecosystem.

Fourth, departing from the focus of the project - to improve SME participation in RIIs – we learned that the largest opportunity is to improve SME participation in field labs, as such focussing on the higher TRLs and on access to new technologies. This would help them in making the digital transition. Additive Manufacturing is one such important technology in the region that could and should be largely adopted by the SMEs. In order to help us to obtain better insights in emerging technologies and the connection of SMEs to these technologies, we plan to establish an "innovation board" representing mainly innovative SME's in the high tech manufacturing industry.

Besides, this action can help the region in adequately using the policy instrument as it can contribute to following opportunities formulated for OP Zuid: 1) inter-regional collaboration and innovation platforms within Europe, 2) more focus on emerging (digital) technologies. We will therefore compare the additive manufacturing ecosystem with that in the adjacent regions and bring the information together in an informative system. A first mapping of the additive manufacturing ecosystem in the region has given a broad idea of the gaps in the landscape and how we could better collaborate with stakeholders from outside the region. Based on this we can also identify possible alliances in order to improve the local ecosystem and build a strong community. These alliances possibly take part in projects within the ERDF programme.

Objective

Create a strong Additive Manufacturing community and regional marketing proposition, as such activate the regional and international network so that we can capitalize on opportunities, remove bottlenecks and collaborate more with each other. This should also enhance SME participation, especially by increasing their participation in field labs where they can obtain experience with new technologies such as additive manufacturing.

By analysing and comparing the existing facilities inside and outside the region, we will be better able to connect RIIs, to better market the existing facilities as an element for attracting top talent and researchers. Initial mapping was started in phase 1, but information should be better analysed and exposed.

Sub-actions

1.1 Create a strong additive manufacturing community, by clustering the regional stakeholders, establish inter-regional collaboration either attract missing stakeholders to the region.
1.2 Facilitate SMEs in the high tech manufacturing industry in the region in making the digital transformation, by increasing participation of SMEs in additive manufacturing / smart industry related fieldlabs
1.3 Compose an SME stakeholder group, "Innovation board" in order to monitor SME participation in the innovation ecosystem and enhance smart transition through adoption of new technologies

Target group

The actions will focus on all stakeholders involved in additive manufacturing in and around the region, such as the Eindhoven University for Technology, field labs at the Brainport Industries Campus and many sme's and some larger companies involved.

Governance structure and players involved

Brainport Development will take the lead in the whole process of developing the AM ecosystem and enhancing SME participation. However, with shared ownership from the main stakeholders involved and constantly checking the relevance for our partners in the region. In case relevant projects will come up, possibly the M.A. Province of Noord-Brabant will be involved.

Timeframe

- Sub-action 1.1: Q2-4 2019, 2020
- Sub-action 1.2: Q-4 2019, 2020
- Sub-action 1.3: Q3 2019 establishment of the Innovation Board, meetings twice a year ongoing

Budget

No extra funding requested. Concerned costs are basically man hours of the project manager and business developer, which will be financed by Brainport Development innovation and development budget. The costs for the SME innovation board meetings are estimated €5.000 a year. Also directly funded by Brainport Development.

Results, indicators

- The regional proposition for additive manufacturing in Brainport region clearly explained, including promotion material.
- A strong AM ecosystem in place, with clear insights in the landscape through a digital informative system
- Percentage of SME's in high tech and manufacturing, which have made the digital transition. Number of SME's participating in the AM related field labs
- The Innovation Board established by November 2019. 2 meetings per year.

Risks related to the action

The most important risk is that SMEs do not prioritize the digital transition and as such do not participate in the field labs. Another risk is that the AM landscape will remain scattered, by lack of

interest from different stakeholders to collaborate and establish (inter-regional connections). Therefore Brainport is putting extra effort in these issues, by making people available to have meetings with the SME's and make the connections within the ecosystem.

Action 2: Establish an inter-regional collaboration programme between Flanders and Brainport

Background

The interregional learning activities - particularly study visits, stakeholdergroup meetings, bilateral meetings with Flanders Make and peer review meeting in Eindhoven - have shown that many interesting synergies and complementarities exist between different regions. During the study visits we came across highly specialized RIIs in other regions which we do not have in the Brainport region. Vice versa, the RII mapping indicated that many RII's in the Brainport region are underutilized, and could therefor be better exploited a.o. through inter-regional linkages.

The ERDF-program gives some stimuli for interregional collaboration, which could be particularly interesting for collaboration between the directly bordering regions Flanders and South Netherlands. With this action we aim to come to concrete initiatives that might be starting points for inter regional projects to be considered by the ERDF programme.

As the learning exchange process showed us, in particular between the regions Brainport Eindhoven (South Netherlands) and Flanders (Belgium) there is a need to better collaborate, increase inter-regional research and innovation activities and network building to support the high tech manufacturing industry. Therefore Brainport Development and Flanders Make would like to promote inter-regional collaboration and as such avoid duplication of infrastructures and address the potential for optimizing the policies in both regions.

Based on discussions with stakeholders and lessons learned from phase 1, it became clear that the clusters and networks in Flanders could represent a good starting point for Dutch SMEs to get connected to innovation infrastructure and access to markets in Flanders. At the same time, the Smart Industry network of field labs in Brainport, where industry collaborates with research in a high TRL environment is very interesting for Flanders. The connection of the Smart Industry field labs with the innovation ecosystem in Flanders could therefore be the most interesting, opportunistic and pragmatic starting point to explore interregional collaboration.

Objective:

Based on the results from the study visits in Brainport and Flanders it was decided that it is a great opportunity to explore further collaboration between Flanders and Brainport with the focus on potential alignment of the innovation policies in both regions. The real tangible output will be a mutual collaboration program between South Netherlands and Flanders, supported by both management authorities.

Sub-actions

2.1 Compare the RII ecosystem in Flanders and in Brainport and make an overview of missing and overlapping RIIs in Brainport and Flanders related to the smart specialisation areas, based on regional mapping results from phase 1 and EU and regional roadmaps.

2.2 Organize 3 meetings and visits, with the aim to define cross regional collaboration activities and propose joint research and innovation projects between Brainport and Flanders.

2.3 Define a cross-regional collaboration program and propose an innovation funnel, defining 2 inter regional innovation projects and discuss within the right stakeholder for a, supported by the Managing Authorities.

Target group

- Cluster organizations, knowledge institutions, field labs, Partners in the Smart Industry Zuid hub
- Stakeholders in the Flemish-Netherlands Hightech Working Group – for enforcing the interregional actions
- Regional authorities
- Flanders Make, Sirris, cluster organizations, EWI, Vlaio
- IDEA Consult

Governance structure and players involved

The activities will be co-ordinated by Flanders Make and Brainport Development, in close collaboration with the stakeholders mentioned above.

Timeframe

- Action 2.1: Q2, 3, 4 2019
- Action 2.2: Q4 2019, Q1 2020
- Action 2.3: Q3, 4 2019

Budget

Brainport Development and Flanders Make will take the man hours from both project managers for their account, by leveraging on other running activities. Stakeholders will also invest in terms of man hours.

IDEA Consult will support in the set-up of the collaboration program. The funding of the selected projects is yet to be defined. Because we do not know yet what the conclusions will be and which projects will be selected. Brainport Development might invest part of its innovation budget. Besides, possibly the projects will be eligible for OP Zuid or the Flemish OP. Other possible funding sources might be: RIIs and industry involved in the projects or regional funding. Specifically for the meetings we foresee costs of €1.500.

Results, indicators

- At least 1 bilateral meeting in Flanders, 1 bilateral meeting in Brainport, 1 plenary meeting with stakeholder groups, leading to the identification of collaboration opportunities and possibly to real collaboration
- RII overview (complementarity and overlap)
- Mutual collaboration program between South Netherlands and Flanders, supported by both management authorities.

Risks related to the action

The risk is that it turns out too much time and energy consuming to create the overview of all RIIs in both regions, using a common methodology.

Another risk is that field labs and other stakeholders will not be willing to put a lot of energy in the exploration, prioritizing short term objectives and daily work load instead of longer term opportunities. Mitigation through making this part of the BIC Innovation Programme, strongly involving the Province of Noord-Brabant.

Action 3: Making optimal use of OP Zuid for RIIs

Background

Based on the SWOT analysis (chapter 2.2), we will try to influence and improve the policy instrument OP Zuid. Based on the exchange with a.o. the region of Flanders during study visits, peer review meetings and bilateral meetings with Flanders Make, it was clearly identified that many missed opportunities exist, where we could better connect RII's. Therefore, one of the issues for which we would like to ask attention, is the possibility to finance inter-regional components in the projects. International cooperation is not directly a variable which submitted projects get points for. We propose to consider the article 70 and evaluate projects, based a.o. on the impact for the region, even though this means financing of components outside of the region is needed.

As part of the learning process we also undertook a SWOT analysis, together with stakeholders, The relatively high administrative burden for SME's was defined as a weakness in the SWOT Therefore we propose to diminish the administrative burden for SMEs. We would also like to propose - especially with respect to the future post 2020 program - to reconsider the project monitoring and evaluation system, and leave more space for the project partners to actually work on achieving results instead of reporting.

Finally, taking into account that probably in the following financing period post 2020, the ERDF OP-Zuid funding will be lower, we see a risk in scattering the relatively small amount of funds. In order not to scatter funds too much, we propose to focus and to look for an alternative system instead of the current system of "calls for proposals".

Brainport Development has a good position to influence the program. The OPZuid is conducted by Stimulus Program, in close collaboration with Brainport Development and other triple helix-regional development organizations, who support the development of quality projects that meet the RIS3 South Netherlands.

Sub-actions

3.1 Achieve that international partners are included in the selected projects and have activities outside the region financed (make use of article 70). By raising the subject during steering group meetings. Monitoring whether the current calls include interregional partners, specifically calls regarding maintenance, logistics and low carbon economy.
3.2 Align the ERDF OPs in Flanders and South Netherlands and innovation policies and operational programmes in both regions aligned and increase interregional activities and projects, by organising a meeting between the M.A. secretariats (Stimulus Programme Management and VLAIO) from both regions and where possible follow up on the ideas that would lead to more allignment.
3.3 New requirement in the guide of applicants and less complex application forms to diminish the administrative burden for participation in projects under OP Zuid This will make it more attractive for SME's to participate in projects and result in higher participation. Therefore we will raise the subject in steering group meetings. Monitor whether the amount and the complexity of forms diminishes.

Target group

The managing authority is the essential partner for this action. Also the RII owners that are the central players in future internationalization efforts.

Governance structure and players involved

Involved are the Managing Authorities of South Netherlands and Flanders. Influence is being practised mostly by participation of Brainport Development in the steering group of OP Zuid.

Timeframe

- Action 3.1: ongoing 2019,2020
- Action 3.2: Q3, 4 2019, Q1, 2 2020
- Action 3.3: ongoing 2019, 2020

Budget

No extra funding involved. Brainport Development will implement these actions as part of the regular work in the steering group of OP Zuid.

Results, indicators

- More projects with international cooperation in RII projects
- At least 1 meeting between VLAIO and Stimulus and a follow up plan defined
- Administrative burden for SME s diminished, to be indicated by the number and complexity of forms
- More SME's take part in the OP Zuid programme

Risks related to the action

That in practice it will turn out too complicated to build consortia across the border and therefore OP Zuid funding will not be invested in partners outside the Netherlands. In that case, at least awareness will be created, which will make it easier in the next programming period to increase international participation in OP ZUID.

Date: 3-7-2019

Signature: _____

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Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____

The Action Plan is discussed and adapted according to the suggestions from the MA Province of Noord Brabant as well as Stimulus, the entity authorized by the MA to do the programme management for the ERDF programme South Netherlands. Last meetings have been 1st of April 2019 and May 6th with MA and Stimulus programme management, have confirmed approval of the Action Plan. In case needed we will ask to formalise this approval by signing the final version of the Action Plan.